From: Geoffrey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Regarding the proposed settlement I have many concerns, but will voice the greatest failings I find in this document.

1. There is no provision/requirement that Microsoft must share/publish the Microsoft software file formats. This is in regard to, but not limited to Microsoft Office software package which includes Word, Powerpoint and Excel formats. Microsoft routining changes these formats which makes it very difficult if not impossible for vendors of similar products to compete with the imbedded base of Microsoft Operating Systems, which use, for the most part, Microsoft Office based software packages.

2. Although there is a provision that Microsoft may not stop OEM computer manufacturers from providing dual booting Operating Systems on there machines, there is no wording that would stop Microsoft from contractually forbidding the OEMS from selling computer systems that have soley a non-Microsoft operating system.

3. There is no provision to permit a end user to sell his/her 'share' of their version of Microsoft Operating Systems. An end user should be permitted to do so.

4. Microsoft licensing should not dictate what Operating System the user must used when purchasing software packages. For example, if I purchase Micrsoft word, I should be able to run it on any Operating System I deem fit.

5. The continuation of Microsoft ownership of the dominant and monopolistic operating system market as well as the dominant and monopolistic Office software package (Microsoft Office) will continue to enforce Microsoft's current monopoly strangle hold on the current computer desktop. A reconsideration should be made in revisiting the possibility of breaking this company up.

6. The primary executive staff of the Microsoft corporation, which includes Bill Gates, Steve Ballmer and others that should be determined, should be removed from the control of this company. They should be barred from having any ownership, influence in any computer related business. This company has virtually destroyed the computer desktop environment. We could be so much further along, so much more productive if it were not for this innovation stifling company.

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Until later: Geoffrey   esoteric@3times25.net

"...the system (Microsoft passport) carries significant risks to users that
are not made adequately clear in the technical documentation available."
- David P. Kormann and Aviel D. Rubin, AT&T Labs - Research
- http://www.avirubin.com/passport.html